

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

August 2014 Edition

Welcome!

With August on the horizon, the First Day of School will soon be upon us. While you enjoy the remainder of your summer, I wanted to share some great opportunities to be a part of the fantastic things happening in and around District 2 and Howard County! In this edition, you will find fun, informational events and ways to get involved throughout the summer. I will also be posting updates when available to my FB page so I encourage you to "[Like](#)" me to stay informed or register for updates through

[NotifyMeHoward](#).

Know of any upcoming events you'd like to see highlighted here? Please email me the details to

cbball@howardcountymd.gov.

If you are not already registered to receive this newsletter, email "subscribe" to cbball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

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31st Annual National Night Out!



On **August 5th 6-9 pm** come join family, friends and neighbors for the 31st annual National Night Out, celebrated for the third year at the **North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel**. The evening is designed to heighten awareness of crime and drug prevention, generate support for local anti-crime programs and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. The event features a live concert, Howard County Police Department displays and much more. The event is free and for all ages. For more information, call **410-313-0390**.

HCPD's Summer Mobile Recreation Center!

Back by popular demand is the FREE Summer Mobile Recreation Center sponsored and supervised by our HC Police Department. The program will be at the following OM locations on the following dates/times:

- **Talbott Springs Neighborhood Center/Pool** - Operating every through **August 18 9am-5pm**
*FREE Swimming to rec center participates each of these Mondays between 12-3pm. Those wishing to participate must take a swimming skills test.
- **Blandair Park** - Operating every through **August 18 9am-5pm**
This is a **FREE** drop in program. Those participating should bring beverages/snacks/lunch/towels etc. as these are not provided.

For information please contact the HC Police at **410-313-2620** or visit www.hcpd.org. This program is part of the Howard County Police Youth Division Program and funded by a grant from the US Attorney's office.

Aging in Place Home Repair Funding!

Since 2005, Columbia Association and the Howard County Office on Aging have partnered to help older adults age in place, providing financial assistance to qualified CA homeowners who cannot otherwise pay for accessibility or repair expenses for their homes. For more information, please see the full news release on CA's website, <http://bit.ly/1iiiVAp>

Nominees Sought for Annual Leadership Awards!

The HC Commission on Disability Issues is now seeking nominations for its 2014 Leadership Awards program to recognize outstanding efforts in advancing full participation in community life for all residents, and promoting the spirit and intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other disability rights laws. To be eligible, nominees must live, work or provide services in Howard County. Deadline for nominations is **Friday, August 1** and completed forms should be sent to Howard County Commission on Disability Issues, **6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 300, Columbia, MD 21046**, or faxed to **410-313-6424**.

Categories for nominations are:

- **Leadership: Business** – an employer who values diversity and provides equal opportunities for employees with disabilities, as evidenced by hiring practices, staff development, advancement possibilities and accommodation practices; **OR** a provider who, through commitment to the principles of self-determination and integration, supports individual choice in areas of education, employment, housing, social and/or recreational activities, resulting in mainstream community participation.
- **Leadership: Accessibility** – an individual, community organization or business that advances universal design through broad spectrum, barrier-free and assistive technological solutions that improve access for people with disabilities and benefit the general population; **OR** demonstrates a commitment to the spirit of the ADA and other disability rights laws through welcoming environments and accommodations that allow participation beyond legal requirements.
- **Leadership: Adult** – an individual 22 years of age or older who has a disability and has achieved success as a role model or a leader in a specific area, e.g., athletics, art, education, employment or community advocacy.
- **Leadership: Youth** – an individual 21 years of age or younger who has a disability and has achieved success as a role model or a leader in a specific area, e.g., athletics, art, education, employment or community advocacy.

For more info or to download a nomination form, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/CDIawards.htm or call **410-313-6400** (Voice/Relay) and ask to have a form mailed. To request the nomination packet in an alternate format, contact Erica Lewis at **410-313-6402** (Voice/Relay) or email elewis@howardcountymd.gov.

Award winners will be recognized at the Annual Awards Celebration on **Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**, sponsored by County Executive Ken Ulman and the Commission on Disability Issues at The Bain Center in Columbia.

Columbia Youth & Teen Center Celebrates Summer!

Hanging out at the Youth and Teen Center (YTC) at The Barn is a fun, safe way for teens and pre-teens to socialize and participate in recreational and educational programs. Columbia and Howard County kids ages 9 to 18 are welcomed year round with after-school, summer time and some weekend activities and programs that are designed to promote self-esteem and to develop life skills. YTC @ The Barn is a multi-purpose, two-story facility where teens can access a computer lab, watch movies, play Wii or XBOX on a large flat screen TV, or enjoy billiard tables, air hockey, ping pong and various board games in the recreation room. Upstairs features a mini-gym for basketball, volleyball and other games and activities, as well as a snack bar run by the entrepreneurial program. Check out some of the up-coming events:

Fun Under the Sun Week

August 4th – Water Balloon Toss
August 5th – Trip to Cascade Lake, Hampstead, MD
August 6th – Musical Chair/Tug of War
August 7th – Trip to Virginia Beach, VA
August 8th – Man Hunt

Poolooza & More Week

August 11th – Basketball Challenge
August 12th – Pool Party (location to be determined)
August 13th – Capture the Flag
August 14th – Pool Party (location to be determined)
August 15th – Courtyard Cookout

Maintenance Week

Closed for Maintenance

Back to School Week

August 27th – Memory Lane/Family Feud
August 29th – Friday Night Live 7-10 pm – Middle & High School Students only



Oh Deer – A Deer Workshop!



You are cordially invited for an informative community presentation on **Thursday, August 7, 2014 7-9pm** at The Other Barn about the local deer population, Lyme disease, deer deterrents, resistant plantings and much more! Residents will hear from Phil Norman, of Howard County Recreation & Parks, a representative from the Howard County Health Department to discuss ticks and Lyme Disease and a representative from the Howard County Master Gardeners to discuss deer deterrent plantings and repellants.

This program is sponsored by the 10 Villages of Columbia including Oakland Mills and Howard County Recreation & Parks. It is FREE and open to the public.

1-2-3 Magic Effective Discipline for Children 2 - 12

1-2-3 Magic, Effective Discipline for Children age 2 – 12, a popular workshop for parents and grandparents alike, returns in August! Learn techniques to help curb children's negative behaviors such as whining, arguing, yelling, and tantrums, and encourage positive habits regarding homework, cleaning up, eating, bedtime, and getting ready. Cost is \$5/person and pre-registration is required. The workshop will be held **Thursday, August 14 6:30-8:30pm** at the Ellicott City Senior Center, 9401 Frederick Road in Ellicott City.



Space is limited so register TODAY! For more info or to pre-register, call **410-313-1940** or visit www.howardcountymd.gov/children

69th Annual Howard County Fair!



The 69th annual Howard County Fair has returned! **August 2-9th 8am-11pm**, fairgoers can enjoy amusement rides, visit barn animals, enjoy pig races and pony rides, and take advantage of bingo games and purchase local farm produce. Cost for admission is \$5/adult, \$2/seniors and children under 10yrs are FREE. The event will be held at the Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairground Road, West Friendship. Parking is FREE.

The First Saturday is Armed Forces Day, where a valid Military ID gets you in FREE all day (includes spouse & children under 18); Senior Day is Tuesday where residents 62 & older enter FREE all day. For details, call **410-442-1022** or visit www.howardcountyfair.org.

HCPSS Seeks Citizen for Police Development/Revision Committees!

The Howard County Public School System is now accepting applications for citizens who wish to serve on the Policy Development/Revision Committees. Members of each committee attend approximately 4-5 meetings to discuss and make policy recommendations regarding educational programs and school system operations. If interested, please fill out the Membership Interest Form at http://www.hcpss.org/aboutus/member_interest_form.pdf and send to policy@hcpss.org or mail to Ms. Trudy Grantham, Office of Policy/Charter Schools, 10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

The deadline to apply is **Friday, August 8, 2014**.

Mid-Year Senior Pet Food Bank Collection

This very important program was started by Howard county Animal Control Officers, to assist the less fortunate senior citizens in our community; the program has since been extended to low income residents and others in certain circumstances. The assistance this program provides can make the difference between being able to keep a much cherished pet or being forced to surrender him or her to the shelter. Our pets are a very important part of our family and our lives; for some senior citizens they are the only family they have. Your donations to this program may seem insignificant to some, but for those who are faced with having to make the difficult decision to give up their pet because they can no longer afford to feed them, this program is vital.

A collection box will be placed in the **front counter area of the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits, George Howard Building, through Friday, August 8th.**

Currently there is an urgent need for:

Dry (Adult) Cat Food - both large and small bags

Dry (Adult) Dog Food – both large and small bags – Large and Small breeds

Canned (Adult) Cat Food

Cat Litter

At this time there is no need for Puppy or Kitten food, Canned Dog Food, Toys or Biscuits.

If there are those in the community you think would benefit from this program, please refer them to Officer Susan Carlson at 410-313-2780.

Columbia BikeAbout

Mark your calendars and join Columbia Association's (CA) Columbia Archives for the fun and informative annual Columbia BikeAbout, which will be held on **Saturday, September 13.**

This year's free, family-friendly ride will **begin at 9:30 a.m. at a new location — Wilde Lake Park.** Riders will be able to start up until 10 a.m. and are expected to **complete the ride by 1 p.m.** They will embark on a 10-mile route that winds through the villages of Wilde Lake, Harper's Choice and Hickory Ridge. The route takes them into the neighborhood that James Rouse, Columbia's founder, called home, and then brings them along the stream that feeds Wilde Lake, and then into the Middle Patuxent Valley.



Columbia BikeAbout highlights the history of Columbia, as well as the extensive pathway system and open space that contribute to Columbia's high quality of life. This year's features during the ride include fun facts about Rouse, a look at some of CA's newest improvement projects, and a closer look at the future of Symphony Woods.

The end of the ride will bring a special treat: an old-fashioned picnic hosted at Wilde Lake Park by the Wilde Lake Community Association and CA. Riders will be able to purchase refreshments from a variety of food trucks and enjoy free entertainment.

Pre-registration for the BikeAbout is encouraged. Registration can be done online at BikeAbout.EventBrite.com. For more information, email Columbia.Archives@ColumbiaAssociation.org or call 410-715-6781.

Oakland Mills Community Pool Party

Don't miss this annual fun event open to all Oakland Mills residents on **August 6, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.** **Tickets are \$3** for everyone ages 3 and older and on sale now at The Other Barn. The evening includes unlimited fun in the pool, DJ providing music and poolside games, grilled hot dogs/chips and a special treat of lemonade and ices (courtesy of Whole Foods, our new neighbor across the bridge). **Purchase your ticket and find out what pool we will be at this year!!!!** Tickets will be available in advance until August 5th. Sorry, no ticket sales at the pool. Call 410-730-4610 for more information or to purchase tickets

Save the Date – Cultural Arts Festival in Oakland Mills

Come out on **October 11, 2014 11am – 4pm** for an afternoon of live music, children's performers, crafts, festival food, health screenings, local talent, and a variety of craft vendors at the Oakland Mills Village Center, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia.

For more information, call 410-730-4610 or email events@oaklandmills.org.

Farmer's Market in Oakland Mills!



Buy fresh and local! Howard County Farmer's Markets in Oakland Mills is now open for the summer. Come out on **Sundays 9am-1pm at the Oakland Mills Village Center, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia** to enjoy products from vendors like The Cosmic Coffee Bean Company, Great Harvest Bread Co., Lewis Orchards, and many more.

The Farmer's Market provides residents with a one-stop shop for locally grown, raised, and prepared foods and plants.

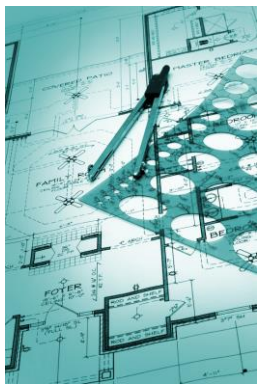
For more information or other locations, visit <http://howardcountymarket.com/index.html>.

Beautification and Block Party Grants – Apply Today!

Calling all Oakland Mills residents... Are you looking to host a block party this summer to connect with neighbors or are you responsible for maintaining your cul-de-sac island and looking to make improvements? Apply today and Oakland Mills will contribute up to \$25 for block parties and \$75 for beautification project expenses!

For details, contact Sandy Cederbaum via email at manager@oaklandmills.org. Be sure to include: your name/address and the date of the block party (if applicable). Save your receipts and bring them to The Other Barn or mail them in and include the name and address of the person requesting the reimbursement.

MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Homeowners!



HC Housing is accepting applications for the MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Single Family (MHRP-SF). Applications are available at Housing's office in the **Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, 3rd floor** in Columbia.

MHRP-SF is a housing rehabilitation program that preserves and improves single family properties with an emphasis on bringing eligible properties into compliance with applicable building codes and standards. It's designed to address priority home maintenance items, such as: correcting exterior or interior deficiencies; making accessibility modifications; correcting health and safety violations; improving the homes weatherization and energy conservation; and correcting lead-based paint violations. General improvements, such as small home additions, alterations and carpeting, fences and landscaping, and kitchen, bathroom and closet remodeling, may be considered for financing as well, if all priority home maintenance items are in good condition or have been previously renovated. Swimming pools and recreational facilities are considered luxury items and not eligible.

For more information, contact **Kelly Cimino** at 410-313-6318 and select option 4, or e-mail kcimino@howardcountymd.gov.

HC Stream ReLeaf Program!

Want to help the environment and leave your mark? Under the Stream ReLeaf Program, residents that live within 75 feet of a stream are eligible to apply online to receive FREE trees and shrubs. This program, offered through our Department of Recreation & Parks, is aimed at improving the water quality and wildlife habitat by creating and enhancing stream buffers – protective strips of trees, shrubs and other vegetation along the stream.

Homeowners are responsible for the planting and caring of the trees and shrubs, including, but not limited to, watering and protecting them from wildlife. To apply or for more information, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/StreamReleaf.htm or contact **Megan Mills** at 410-313-6205 or email MIhMills@howardcountymd.gov. The County will assess each property to determine eligibility, planting area and the maximum number of plants which may be ordered.

Free Financial Coaching!

A new program, MyBudgetCoach, was launched in Howard County by MakingChange in partnership with [Maryland CASH Campaign](#) and helps working families and individuals improve their ability to budget and make well-informed financial decisions. Understanding the importance of budgeting is generally recognized as the first step in successful financial planning. Participants meet with a trained volunteer coach once a month for 12 monthly sessions. Budgeting techniques, financial management and goal attainment strategies are included. Participants and coaches use on-line tools to track progress in real-time.

Contact the MyBudgetCoach Relationship Manager, **Leslie Petak**, at petakl@makingchangecenter.org if you are interested in participating in the program. MakingChange provides group seminars and personal coaching to teach people to manage their money and change their lives. Its programs are offered in schools, human service agencies and businesses. For more information, visit www.makingchangecenter.org.

Save the Date - 50+ Expo!

On **October 17th 9am-4pm**, join the County's Department of Citizen Services for the 16th annual 50+EXPO at **Wilde Lake High School, 5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia**. Geared towards adults age 50 and older, caregivers, family members and health care professionals, the EXPO features over exhibitors, life-enriching workshops and healthy aging seminars, a living green fair, great food and all day entertainment. Stay tuned to www.howardcountyyaging.org/50plusexpo for more information or call 410-313-6410.



Homeless Gazette!

As an elected official and advocate to end homelessness, I'm thrilled to partner with the Route 1 Day Resource Center to put on the Hope for Homeless 5k. I'd like to share with you the Homeless Gazette which highlights stories and touching information from clients of the Day Center that I hope you find inspiring. I hope you will consider contributing to the Day Center and to their cause in their future. You can find the latest **July 2014** edition [here](#) and view the archive editions [here](#). Here is a [list](#) of their needs if you're able to donate.

Calling All Youth and Teens!

Get involved and be a part of the solution. Have fun and make new friends! Columbia Association's Teen and Middle School Advisory Committee is now seeking young individuals to attend monthly meetings and help get involved in their community by planning, organizing and implementing positive programs and activities for their peers.

High School Students (Ages 13-19) and Middle School Students (Ages 11-13) are invited to call **410-992-3726** or email CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org to sign-up. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month 6:30-8pm at the Youth & Teen Center & The Barn in the **Village of Oakland Mills, 5853 Robert Oliver Place** in Columbia.

Avoid Healthcare Scams!

The Howard County Department of Citizen Services is warning both Medicare recipients and residents who qualify for health coverage through the new health care exchanges of misleading and sometimes illegal offers of help that are cropping up in Howard County. The Department has already received several reports of misleading and illegal conduct related to both Medicare open enrollment and enrollment for health coverage under the federal Affordable Care Act.

The Office on Aging's "Avoiding Medicare Scams and Frauds" fact sheet, available at www.howardcountymd.gov/avoidmedicarefraud.htm, provides info on this and other Medicare provisions designed to protect consumers from misleading sales practices. Consumers can also call the County's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) office at **410-313-7392** to report suspicious health insurance offers and/or to receive free and unbiased help in deciding what, if any, supplemental insurance programs are right for them.

In addition, the County's Office of Consumer Affairs recently received an e-mail from an insurance agent offering to help people "obtain affordable health insurance." This e-mail, however, implied that unless consumers sign up for coverage by January 1, 2014 they will be charged a penalty. In fact, penalties will not be assessed until the end of the enrollment period on March 31, 2014. Certified navigators are prohibited from charging for their services and from offering private insurance products while helping clients enroll with an exchange.

The Office of Consumer Affairs' "Avoiding ID Theft and Fraud in the New Health Insurance Marketplace" fact sheet, available at

Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

4H Club: For youth grades 3+. Meets **2nd Friday of the month** at The Other Barn **3:30-5pm**. Call **410-992-3726** for more info

Art Attack: Creative after-school enrichment program from the Columbia Art Center. Meets **1st and 2nd Mondays**.

Registration/Fees may apply. Call **410-992-3726**.

Columbia Teen Center **410-992-3726**

Howard County Library www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22

Voices For Change <http://hcv4c.org/> or email MMekelburg7@verizon.net

I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

Make a Difference in a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to HCPSS students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Deep Run, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook and Stevens Forest. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan at aokmentor@gmail.com or call **410-730-6030**.

"Your Local Career Connection" Helps in Your Search For Employment!

Howard County's Office of Workforce Development is here for you! The center is geared towards meeting the workforce and employment needs of businesses and job seekers in the 21st century labor market. They provide companies and individuals ranging from professional, technical and managerial to entry level. It offers residents a variety of tools to aid in a job search. The full service center is equipped with computers, fax machines, telephones, internet access and copiers – all to assist you with your employment search. Customized recruitment events are held for businesses and space is available to use for interviewing. For more details, click [here](#) or call **410-290-2620**. The calendar of events is [online](#).

Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

TAX CREDITS: The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling **410-313-4076**. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Livable Home Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Community Associations Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Trash Collection Fee Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: **1-800-506-5806**.

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland which empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at **6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044**. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

Medicare Patients – Looking for a Local Doctor!

The Medicare.gov site is the place to find information about Medicare. The webpage provides detailed information about the basics of Medicare, resources, preventative health care and much more. If you're looking for a local doctor who accepts Medicare, click [here](#). Fill in your zip code and any preferences you might have and you will instantly be given a list of providers in your area! For more info, call **1-800-MEDICARE**.

Give the Gift of Independence!

Neighbor Ride launched its volunteer-based transportation service in 2004 with the mission to decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents. Today, its dedicated volunteers provide an average of 1,000 trips per month for medical appointments, shopping, social outings, personal care and business, religious services, volunteer activities and other day-to-day needs.

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact **Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble** at **410-884-RIDE (7433)** or email volunteer@neighborride.org for more information.

Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- Experiencing an Emergency? Dial 9-1-1
- Want to report an incident, non-emergency? Call 410-313-2200
- Need to report drug activity? Call 410-290-3784 or email ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov
- Want to make an anonymous tip (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call 410-313-7867 or email GangTips@howardcountymd.gov
- Want to report gun crimes? Call 410-313-7867 or email CToler@howardcountymd.gov.
- Do you need Victim Assistance? Call 410-313-3712 or email KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov
- Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey? Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment. For more info, call the Special Operations Bureau at 410-313-3758 or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/aboutpolice.htm>
- Want to start a Neighborhood Watch? Call the Community Services Section at 410-313-4780.
- Looking to prevent Auto Theft? Helpful tips available at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=6442451452>
- Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.? Call 410-313-2780, email animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- Are speeders in your neighborhood? Consider the SMART Program initiative. Info available at www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd_smartprogram.htm
- Interested in a Police Ride-Along? Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- Need a HCPD Spanish line? Call 410-313-7807.
- Interested in volunteering with the HCPD? Call 410-313-2255
- Interesting in HCPD Recruitment? Call 410-313-4273.

Alzheimer's Support Groups in Howard County!

Howard County proudly offers several Alzheimer's Support Groups at various locations throughout the County during days and times that are geared at accommodating the needs of those impacted by Alzheimer's. Pre-screening is required. For support group locations in Howard County, click [here](#). For more information on the Alzheimer's Association, call 1-800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/maryland.

"Guaranteed Ride Home" Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register [online](#) or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).



Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community which is designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at 410-313-2200.

Foreign Born Information and Referral Network!

The Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, 5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite 200-E in Columbia needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to greet clients, answer basic questions, make appointments and support the staff. Hours are **9am-1pm or 1-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday**. Other times may be considered. For more information, call 410-992-1923 x 14.

Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, click [here](#) or call 410-313-6444. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or go [online](#).

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Auditor/Online-Form-to-Report-Fraud-Waste-and-Abuse>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-2005.

View the Council's Current Legislation and Calendar and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. A calendar of upcoming meetings can be found [online](#).

I Want to Hear From You!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email to Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov or fax 410-313-3297.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**.

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"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved"
~ **Mattie Stepanek**